

HOUSE BILL 1209  
By Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 11; Title 49, Chapter 50; Title 49, Chapter 7; Title 49, Chapter 8; Title 49, Chapter 9 and Title 67, relative to funding of higher education.

WHEREAS, a quality education is the key to a better tomorrow for all Tennesseans, and now the availability of the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship program has influenced more top students from across Tennessee to enroll in our state universities and colleges; and

WHEREAS, for such students to reach their full potential, their academic careers must include opportunities to experience rigorous and extensive research under the guidance of experts in their major fields of study; and

WHEREAS, partnerships with Tennessee industry can attract leading scholars, scientists and researchers and increase opportunities for students to actively engage in research, adding focus to the creativity and academic energy that our universities must harness to develop future award winning scientists, researchers and Nobel prize winners; and

WHEREAS, leading universities across our nation are utilizing their research and development incubators to develop many of the cutting edge technologies of today, and Tennessee must adjust and enhance its financial assistance to higher education to provide the necessary funding and support of research and development of infrastructure to initiate collaborative efforts with private industry; and

WHEREAS, to meet the demands of the new global economy, Tennessee's premier research universities have accepted the challenge to develop quality research and development teams and are ready to join more actively with private industry in productive collaborations; and

WHEREAS, a new and innovative paradigm shift of the focus of higher education funding must include an extensive review of the higher education funding formula with the addition of a research and development component to assist our premier research universities; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-202(c)(2), is amended by adding the following sentence after the first sentence:

Such policies and formulae or guidelines shall include a component for support and funding of research and the development of collaborative research efforts with private entities that further the educational goals and missions of the institutions of higher learning, particularly those institutions that are centers of research excellence and job creation.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.